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DEPT FOR SCA/FO DAS GASTRIGHT, SCA/A  
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR AID/ANE, AID/DCHA/DG  
NSC FOR AHARRIMAN  
OSD FOR SHIVERS  
CENTCOM FOR CG CFC-A. CG CJTF-82 POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/08/2017

TAGS: PGOV PREL PTER ASEC MARR AF

SUBJECT: STATUS OF JIRGA PREPARATION FOLLOWING MEETING OF  
JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

REF: A. STATE 93926  
1B. KABUL 1868

Classified By: Ambassador William Wood for reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

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SUMMARY  
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11. (C) The joint Afghan-Pakistan Peace Jirga Technical Committee met in Kabul on July 8 and, according to Afghan Commission Director Farook Wardak, reached agreement on the duration, rules and procedures, and format of the jirga. Wardak said the Pakistanis are increasingly comfortable with the idea of the jirga, adding he expects to receive agreement on the date and Pakistan's final participation list within days. Discussions then would focus on getting agreement on outcome. Urged to aim for a "simple, principled declaration," Wardak said he would welcome informal suggestions on what such a declaration might look like. Both Wardak and DNSA have highlighted concerns about security. End Summary.

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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MAKING GOOD PROGRESS  
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12. (C) PolCounselor met with Afghan Jirga Commission Director Farook Wardak on July 8 to deliver Ref A points and get readout of the meeting earlier the day between the Afghan and Pakistan Joint Technical Committee. According to Wardak, the following issues were resolved:

-- Duration: Wardak reported that the Pakistanis agreed to a four-day jirga. (Note: The Afghan delegation will meet for two or three days before the jirga in prep sessions, in part to ensure participants are aware what is not on the agenda. This includes the Durand Line. End Note)

-- Rules and Procedures: The Afghans, as hosts, have offered the Overall Jirga Chair position to the Pakistanis. There will be an Afghan Deputy Chair and two secretaries (one Afghan and one Pakistani). There will be seven working groups, each with 50 Afghan and 50 Pakistani participants. Each working group will have one Afghan and one Pakistani chairman and focus on one of the seven agenda items (Ref B). A Jirga Executive Committee will consist of the Pakistani

Chairman, Afghan Deputy, two secretaries, and 14 Working Group Chairmen (seven Afghan and seven Pakistani).

-- Format:

- Day 1 Morning - Registration, opening remarks by Presidents Karzai (and probably Musharraf)
- Day 1 Afternoon - Plenary, 12 speakers (six Afghan, six Pakistani)
- Day 2 Working Group sessions
- Day 3 Morning - Plenary, report from Working Group Chairs
- Day 3 Afternoon - Plenary, discussion of Working Group recommendations
- Day 4 Morning - Plenary, recommendations by Executive Committee
- Day 4 Afternoon - Concluding remarks by Presidents Karzai (and possibly Musharraf)

¶3. (C) According to Wardak, the following issues are outstanding:

-- Date: The Afghans have offered July 28, 29, or 30 as the starting date for the jirga. Wardak said the Pakistani delegation had expressed a preference for the second week in August, but promised a response to the Afghan proposal by July 10. Wardak volunteered that the Pakistanis were aware that President Karzai plans to travel the first week of August and may prefer to hold the jirga after that trip.

-- Participation List: The Afghan list is not final but could be approved by President Karzai (after input from his two Vice Presidents) within days. Wardak said the Afghans have not seen the final Pakistani

list but were satisfied with assurances that it would include moderate Pashtuns. Wardak had confirmed to the Pakistanis that there would be women on the Afghan delegation. Each side will make its own decision on the issue.

-- Outcome: Echoing comments by DNSA Engineer Ibrahim to A/DCM on July 5, Wardak told Pol Counselor that, given the national nature of the two delegations and the involvement of the Presidents, a joint declaration would be an appropriate outcome. PolCounselor underlined the importance of using the jirga as a confidence-building measure and strongly encouraged a simple, principled declaration. Wardak agreed, adding he would welcome suggestions on language. Wardak expects the Joint Technical Committee to meet again in Islamabad to discuss specifics on the outcome as soon as there is agreement on the date.

-- International Community Participation: Wardak reported that he had tried to convince the Pakistanis to see the value of having international observers at the opening and closing sessions. The Pakistanis had promised to take the recommendation back to Islamabad, but made no commitment.

-- Presidential Participation - According to Wardak, President Karzai has expressed interest in attending the entire jirga, but there has been no final decision. The Pakistanis reportedly indicated President Musharraf would speak at either the opening or concluding session, but would likely not be present for both. Wardak encouraged the Pakistanis to see the value of both presidents being present for both the opening and closing sessions.

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CONCERN ABOUT SECURITY  
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¶4. (C) Wardak raised the issue of security, saying he viewed it as the thing that now might stand in the way

of the jirgas. He asked that ISAF be asked to pay more attention to security as the Afghan Security Forces are not up to the challenge. Wardak's comments on security echo those expressed by DNSA Engineer Ibrahim to A/DCM on July 5. Ibrahim shared that individuals with pictures of the jirga site had been arrested, adding "there are many in Kabul who do not want it to happen."

WOOD